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## **Sioux Falls authors tell story of pheasant hunting for kids in new State Historical Society book**

PIERRE, SD—Sioux Falls authors Mark Meierhenry and David Volk have written three children's books about South Dakota's natural history, but for their fourth story they've taken on one of the state's most important pastimes: pheasant hunting.

*The Mystery of the Pheasants* has just been published by the South Dakota State Historical Society (SDSHS) Press, and the two ex-politicos have high hopes that their tale of two youngsters' first pheasant hunt and the traditions and history surrounding pheasant hunting will prove to be a hit.

"Ring-necks are nature's stars of South Dakota's fall celebration," Meierhenry said, "and this story of Max and Hannah exploring their first hunt is a classic South Dakota story."

"The pheasant is special to South Dakota because, like most of the people of this state, it came here as an immigrant and flourished in this wonderful place we call home," commented Volk. "*The Mystery of the Pheasants* shows the history behind our favorite fall sport."

In *The Mystery of the Pheasants*, twins Max and Hannah are about to go on their first pheasant hunt. They've taken their safety course, and they can't wait to get out into the field. But there is much they don't know about the Chinese ring-necked pheasant, and the twins' grandfather has plenty to teach them before they load their shotguns for the first time.

Two of Meierhenry and Volk's previous books have won national awards, and SDSHS Press marketing director Martyn Beeny believes that this story just might have that potential as well.

"Mark and Dave have written a fantastic story, and when you combine that with the outstanding artwork of illustrator Susan Turnbull, I think we just might have another award-winning effort on our hands," Beeny said.

*The Mystery of the Pheasants* can be purchased for \$14.95 (plus shipping and tax where applicable) direct from the South Dakota State Historical Society Press by contacting (605) 773-6009, emailing [orders@sdshspress.com](mailto:orders@sdshspress.com), or visiting [www.sdshspress.com](http://www.sdshspress.com). The book can also be purchased from most bookstores.

*and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*